

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 15, 2005. Claims 11, 22, and 33-66 are presented for examination, of which Claims 11, 22, 33, 34-49, and 58 are in independent form. Claims 1-10, 12-21, and 23-32 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and new Claims 49-66 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 34-48 have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly, and Claims 11, 22, and 33 have been amended purely as to formal matters. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Two (2) Information Disclosure Statements and corresponding PTO-1449 forms were submitted on November 26 and December 30, 2004, as evidenced by the attached print-outs from the imaged filewrapper available on the PAIR database of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms, indicating that the references listed thereon have been considered and made of record in the present application.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,642,946 (Janes et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,854,923 (Dockter et al.). Cancellation of Claims 1-10, 12-21, and 23-32 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 34-49 and 58, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claim 34 is directed to a method for displaying information of a tree having a plurality of nodes and a plurality of objects associated therewith. Each object of the plurality of objects has a plurality of attributes. According to the method, a user selects a set of objects of

the plurality of objects and, in accordance with the user's preferences, selects one or more attributes of the selected set of objects. Attributes that are available for selection are not pre-defined. A content window of a display device displays the selected set of objects in a first region of the content window, and displays the selected one or more attributes in a second region of the content window. The content window is updated automatically, based on changes to the selected set of objects or the selected one or more attributes.

One of the notable features of Claim 34 is that the user selects a set of objects from a plurality of objects, and also selects one or more attributes of the selected set of objects. That is, of all the objects in the plurality of objects, the user can select a set therefrom (see, for example, Figs. 3A and 3C); and of all the attributes corresponding to the selected set of objects, the user can select one or more of those attributes (see, for example, Figs. 3B, 4, and 7C). The attributes that are available for selection are not pre-defined. The selected set of objects are displayed in a first region of a content window, and the selected one or more attributes are displayed in a second region of the content window (see, for example, Figs. 7A and 7B). The content window is updated automatically, based on changes to the selected set of objects or the selected one or more attributes (see, for example, the specification at page 13, lines 3-14).

Janes et al. relates to a graphical user interface for keeping track of livestock inventory. (A more detailed discussion of this reference may be found in the Amendment filed on December 6, 2004.) Office Action alleges that Janes et al. "discloses the claimed invention except for the automatically monitoring the plurality of objects for determining changes to the objects or their attributes." Dockter et al. relates to a system for linking a user with databases of multi-media information. The Office Action alleges that Dockter et al., at column 5, lines 16-26,

discloses the feature of automatically monitoring a “plurality of objects for determining changes to the objects or their attributes.”

The cited portion of Dockter et al. recites the following:

In this disclosure the above encapsulation is called the "Core encapsulation". Encapsulations can be constructed manually or automatically. One example of automatic construction techniques is to monitor the user's behavior to determine the user's preferences. Another example would be to query the user for the preferences as objects are displayed. FIG. 3 shows a tree diagram illustrating the various alternative methods to calculate a value for the Connection (which estimates the utility of a Connected Phenomena).

It is respectfully submitted that nothing in the cited portion of Dockter et al. relates to displaying a content window or automatically updating a content window based on changes to a selected set of objects or a selected one or more attributes of the selected set of objects. As best understood by Applicants, Dockter et al. is concerned with a system for determining a user's preferences based on selections made by the user during, for example, previous searches, and how much time the user spends reviewing search results. Once the user's preferences are determined, then when the user performs a new search the new search results are ordered according to those preferences. In this regard, Dockter et al. is believed to teach away from enabling a user to select attributes of objects, such that the objects and the user-selected attributes are displayed.

Applicants submit that a combination of Janes et al. and Dockter et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a method for displaying information of a tree, wherein the method includes the steps of: “selecting, by a user, a set of objects of the plurality of objects,” and “selecting, by the user, one or more attributes of the selected set of objects in accordance with the user's preferences, wherein attributes that are

available for selection are not pre-defined,” and “displaying, on a content window of a display device, the selected set of objects in a first region of the content window and the selected one or more attributes in a second region of the content window,” and “automatically updating the content window based on changes to the selected set of objects or the selected one or more attributes,” as recited in Claim 34.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 34 is patentable over the cited references, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 35-48 include features similar to those of Claim 34 discussed above. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as for Claim 34 discussed above.

New independent Claims 49 and 58 are directed to a computer-implemented method for displaying information on a display device, and a corresponding computer system. According to the method, a selection is made of a plurality of objects from a database, and a selection is made of a plurality of attributes of the plurality of objects. A navigation window is displayed on the display device showing items corresponding to the selected plurality of objects, and, concurrently with the displaying of the navigation window, a content window is displayed on the display device. The content window shows a plurality of regions respectively corresponding to the selected plurality of attributes, with each region of the plurality of regions showing items corresponding to at least one of the selected plurality of objects and having an attribute corresponding to the attribute of that region. The database is monitored to detect changes to the items corresponding to the selected plurality of objects, as well as changes to the selected plurality of attributes. When a change is detected in the items corresponding to the

selected plurality of objects, the navigation window is automatically updated to show current items. Similarly, if a change is detected in the items corresponding to the selected plurality of attributes, the content window is automatically updated to show current items.

The monitoring feature enables a user to have the latest information regarding items from the selected plurality of objects as well as items from the selected plurality of attributes. For example, the object items may include buy and sell orders for particular stocks, and the attribute items may include the share price, the number of shares to be purchased, and the number of shares to be sold of those stocks. This allows the user to have the most current information on the share prices of those stocks, as well as the number of shares to be purchased/sold. (This example is provided purely for illustrative purposes, and it should not be construed that the present invention is limited to the specifics of the illustrative example.)

Neither Janes et al. and Dockter et al., considered individually or in any permissible combination, is understood to disclose or suggest the features of new independent Claims 49 and 58. Accordingly, Claims 49 and 58, as well as the new claims dependent therefrom, are submitted to be patentable over Janes et al. and Dockter et al. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Finally, independent Claims 11, 22, and 33 are directed to a method for displaying a plurality of objects of a tree having a plurality of nodes, and a corresponding computer system as well as a computer-readable storage medium. According to the method, the plurality of objects is associated with the plurality of nodes. Each object has a plurality of attributes, and

objects associated with any one of the plurality of nodes comprise a superset of objects associated with lower nodes. An attribute filter is applied to each of the lower nodes in successive fashion so that only those objects contained in a higher node that have a matching attribute are displayed.

The Office Action alleges that Janes et al. discloses these features at column 3, lines 30-45; column 5, lines 30-38; and column 9, lines 10-53. Upon a careful review of these cited portions of Janes et al., Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of Claims 11, 22, and 33 for at least the reason that these cited portions are not understood to show or suggest that objects associated with any one of a plurality of nodes comprise a superset of objects associated with lower nodes, or that an attribute filter is applied to each of the lower nodes in successive fashion so that only those objects contained in a higher node that have a matching attribute are displayed. Should the Examiner disagree, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner more particularly point out how the cited portions relate to the features of Claims 11, 22, and 33.

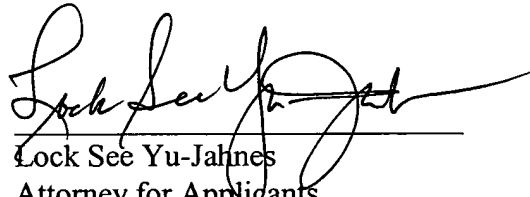
The present Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is believed proper and is respectfully requested, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lock See Yu-Jahnes", written over a horizontal line.

Lock See Yu-Jahnes
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 564042v1

